



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application: **Das et al.**

Serial No.: **09/915,826**

Filed: **July 25, 2001**

For: **Apparatus, System and Method  
for Automatically Making  
Operational Purchasing Decisions**

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Group Art Unit: **3625**

Examiner: **Fadok, Mark A.**

Attorney Docket No.: **YOR920010348US1**

**Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 11, 2005.

By: Michele Morrow  
Michele Morrow

**DECLARATION UNDER RULE 1.131**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Steve R. White, an inventor in the above-identified patent application, declare as follows:

1. I am an inventor of the above-identified patent application.
2. I am/was an employee of International Business Machines Corporation, Inc. at the time the invention was conceived.
3. The invention as claimed was conceived in the United States.
4. The invention as claimed in the above-identified application was conceived on or before February 5, 2001.
5. The invention as claimed is disclosed in the attached disclosure that was last modified on February 5, 2001.

The declarant further states that the above statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that any such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent resulting therefrom.

DATE: May 10, 2005

Steve R. White  
Steve R. White